



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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MEDIA ADVISORY

**Governor Brian Schweitzer & Blackfeet Officials to Celebrate
Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Blackfeet Community
Water Project**

(HELENA) – Governor Brian Schweitzer will join members of the Blackfeet tribe, state, federal and local officials at the groundbreaking for the Blackfeet Community Water Project at the site of a new water treatment plant on Friday, July 13, at 10:30 a.m.

“This project is a perfect example of how collaboration between state and tribal government can help solve serious problems facing our communities,” Governor Brain Schweitzer said. “I am committed to creating a climate of success in Indian Country and this project will be a life changing step for the Blackfeet community.”

This phase of the Blackfeet Community Water Project will create a microfiltration water treatment plant to supply clean, drinkable water to the Town of Browning and the East Glacier Park community.

Both communities are facing serious problems with their water systems. The Town of Browning periodically experiences a complete loss of useable water, forcing schools, businesses and local government to shutdown completely. East Glacier has been under a mandatory boil order for water since March of 1994.

“The Department of Commerce is dedicated to creating strong infrastructure in every community in Montana,” Commerce Director Anthony Preite said. “I am proud to see the efforts of our partnerships come to fruition with truly positive results.”

Preite also stated that this project has remained one of his top priorities, dating back to the mid-1990s when he was State Director for USDA Rural Development.

The Montana Department of Commerce has contributed a total of more than \$1.8 million dollars to the project through the Treasure State Endowment Program and federal Community Development Block Grants. More than \$800,000 of Commerce TSEP funds will be used to construct the water treatment facility. Additionally, a total of \$1 million dollars in Commerce TSEP and CDBG funds will be used to build a 10 mile pipeline connecting the treatment plant to the Town of Browning.

Upon completion the treatment facility will immediately begin serving East Glacier, allowing residents to safely use their tap water without boiling it first. It is estimated the pipeline to Browning will be constructed the following year.

WHO: Governor Brian Schweitzer, Blackfeet Tribal members, State, Federal & local officials

WHAT: Celebrate new water treatment facility groundbreaking

WHEN: Friday, July 13 @ 10:30 AM

WHERE: Water treatment plant site, approximately 2.5 miles west of East Glacier following Hwy 49. When traveling west, the site is located on the south side of Hwy 49.

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